

Talk about indecency!

As a professor of ethics, I'm appalled at the distortions and filthy tactics tolerated by media in this year's election campaign. One of the worst is about to be perpetrated by Sinclair Broadcasting. That corporation's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Those of us who struggle to cultivate an enlightened public, capable of critical thinking, can only register shock at the offenses committed by the Sinclairs.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Mine is one voice that registers protest at the prospect of automatic renewal of Sinclair's licences in Maryland. Thank you.